

# 2008 WILD TURKEY PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS



**Utah Division of Wildlife Resources**

# WHAT WILL BE COVERED?

- 2007 Harvest Results
- Transplants
- Statewide and Regional Recommendations –Two options
- Synopsis for each option
- Recommendations by Regions





# 2007 SPRING TURKEY HARVEST STATISTICS

- Total of 358 (329 in 2006) Merriam's turkeys taken
- 58% success rate (55% in 2006)
- Total of 1,070 (1,067 in 2006) Rio Grande turkeys taken
- 56% success rate (66% in 2006)
- Total of 1,428 turkeys harvested statewide in 2007; up 2% from 1,396 harvested in 2006
- 57% statewide hunter success rate in 2007



# RECENT TRANSPLANTS

- Transplanted a total of 442 turkeys during winter of 2006-2007.
- Out-of-State Efforts:
  - 23 Merriam's turkeys from Idaho
- In-state Efforts:
  - 92 Merriam's
  - 327 Rio Grande



# **TRANSPLANT PRIORITY LIST**

- **Approximately 50 sites (3-4 sites for Merriam's) yet to be completed.**
- **List update – Working on a draft to revise the list (subtract and/or add).**

# **STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Two Option Proposal:**
  - **Option One – Status Quo, same management strategy as last year.**
  - **Option Two (DWR PREFERRED)– Liberal permit numbers, gradual progress to Over The Counter Sales.**

# AIM FOR THE FUTURE OVER THE COUNTER SALES STATE WIDE

- 2007 Utah turkey hunter applications – 15,481. Estimated turkey population is 18,000
- OTC sales in other Western States:
  - **Colorado** – 10,200 hunters, 24% hunter success. (20,000 estimated turkey population)
  - **Wyoming** – 4,925 hunters, 57% success.
  - **Idaho** – 14,825 hunters, 26% success.(30,000 estimated turkey population)
  - **Oregon** – 14,807 hunters, 33% success.(45,000 estimated turkey population)

# **OPTION ONE STATUS QUO**

- **BIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS**

- Winter flock count surveys used as primary index of annual turkey population changes.
- Approximately 46% birds in a population are males.
- Harvest no more than 30% males from a population.
- Goal not less than a 20% Hunter success rate. Turkey Harvest Model guidelines are at 40% success rate.

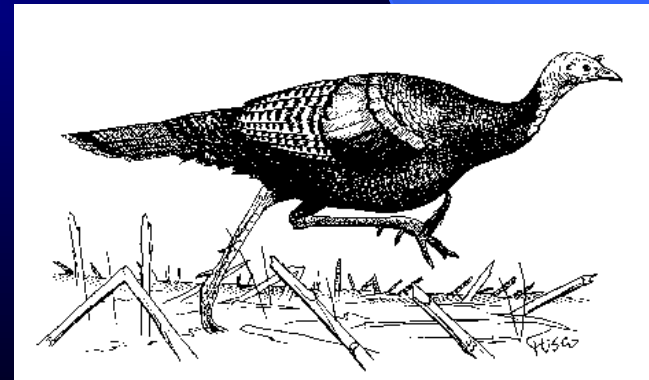
- **Balance recommendations relative to:**

- Hunter crowding rates.
- Hunter satisfaction index.



# OPTION ONE - continued

- Limited Entry Hunt Units – draw for a permit with the same season framework as 2007.
- Same Hunt Unit boundaries.
- 20% permits available for Landowners.
- 15% permits available for those age 18 and under.



# OPTION TWO – AIMED TO EVENTUAL OTC SALES

- **Three Hunt Framework – A, B, C.**
  - HUNT A – April 12-20, 2008 (9 days; two weekends)
  - HUNT B – April 21-May4, 2008 (14 days; two weekends)
  - HUNT C – May 5-31, 2008 (27 days: three and a half weekends).
- **HUNTS A, B & C:**
  1. Limited Entry Hunt Units – draw for permit
  2. Use bonus points.
  3. **A two year waiting period will be eliminated for this hunt.**
  4. 20% permits available for Landowners.
  5. **15% permits available for those age 18 and under.**

# OPTION TWO - continued

- **HUNT C (Late Hunt):**
- **Hunt boundaries – Regional recommendation may allow region wide or unit boundary.**
  - **Northern, Central and Southern Regions will be a Region wide hunt.**
  - **Northeastern and Southeastern will be existing Unit boundaries.**

# OPTION TWO

## PERMIT CALCULATIONS

- HUNT A (Early) permits = One third of the total permits derived from the current formula.
- HUNT B (Middle) = Two thirds of the total permits derived from the current formula.
- HUNT C (Late) =
  1. Year 2008 - Hunt C =  $(A+B) \times 1$
  2. Year 2009 - Hunt C =  $(A + B) \times 2$
  3. Year 2010 - Hunt C =  $(A + B) \times 3$
  4. Year 2011 - etc.... UNTIL:
- When the number of permits come to within 10% of the number of applicants for all hunts, over the counter sales begin.

# OPTION TWO

## MANAGEMENT TRIGGERS

- May change permit recommendations based on the following triggers:
- IF:
  1. Hunter success averages 20% or less over a three-year period.
  2. Hunter crowding (rating) averages 4 or more over a three-year period.
  3. Hunter satisfaction (rating) averages 2 or less over a three-year period.
  4. Catastrophic weather or habitat loss affecting populations.



# OPTION TWO

## MANAGEMENT TRIGGERS

- POTENTIAL RESPONSES TO TRIGGERS:
  1. Reduce number of permits.
  2. Change hunt season timing and length.
  3. Go from over the counter sales to limited entry.
  4. Increase unit size.
  5. Close unit to hunting.
  6. Use combination of the above.

# **2008 SPRING OVERALL TURKEY HUNTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **OPTION ONE: 4043 Permits, up 30% from 2007.**
- **OPTION TWO: 7706 Permits, up 148% from 2007.**

# Boundary Changes

- **OPTION ONE**

- Boundaries to stay same as in 2007, except clarification of wording in the Central Mountains East Unit.
- Also description changes for the East Canyon Unit and the Morgan South Rich Unit. Both have been realigned to fit the Wildlife Management Unit boundaries.

- **OPTION TWO**

- Option One changes as above.
- Hunt C in Northern, Central, and Southern Regions: Hunt C boundary will be the same as the boundaries for the General Deer Regional Hunt Boundary.

# **Application Period**

## **11/28/07-12/26/07**



# **LANDOWNER PERMITS**

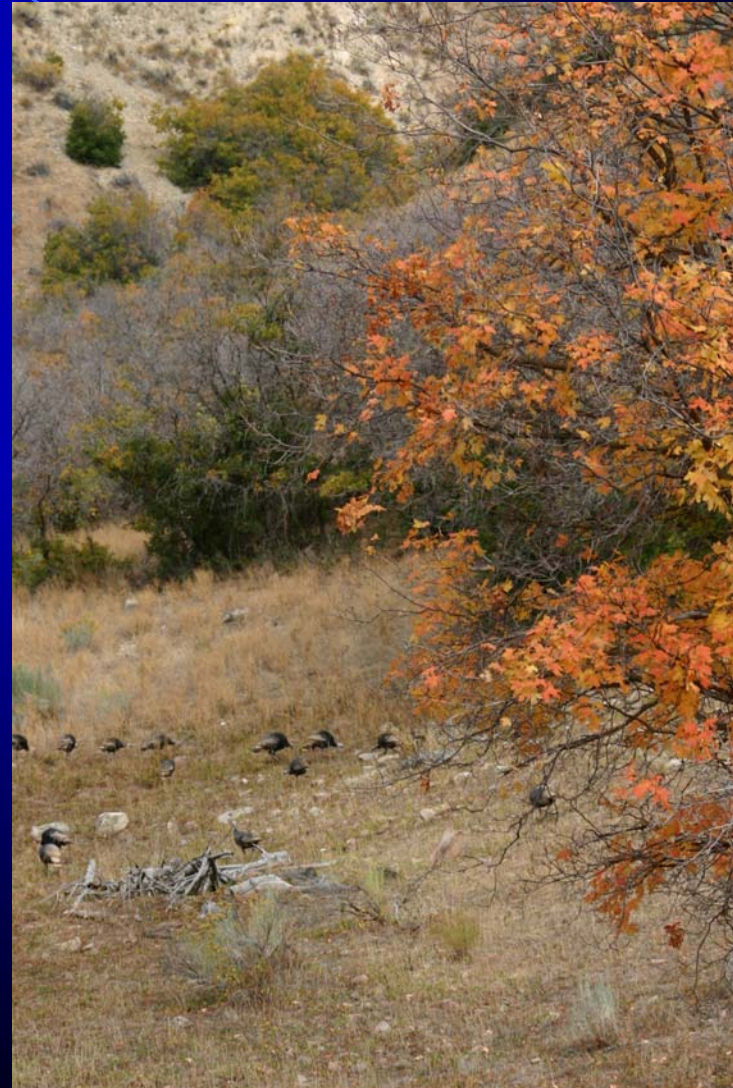
- Landowners may apply On Line.
- 20% of recommended permits are available to landowners.
- At least 50% of these permits usually end up going to the public.





# CWMU PERMITS

- 8 CWMUs (8 in 2007) throughout the state have requested a total of 22 private permits (22 in 2007) in 2008.
- 50:50 split of public:private permits.



# Proposed Region-Specific Changes



# **Southern Region Recommendations**

- **Beaver (West) Unit closed for 2008 season due to the habitat loss from the Milford Flat fire.**
- **Option Two - Hunt C will combine all the units in the region to Region Wide hunt. (Southern Region – Region Wide).**
- **Hunt C boundary description will be the same as the Southern Region General Deer Hunt Boundary (excluding Beaver West Unit).**



# Southern Region (CWMUs)

- Total of 2 CWMUs encompassing 16 permits (50:50 public:private split).
  - Fillmore, Pahvant Unit:
    - Missouri Flat; 5 private, 5 public permits.
  - Plateau, Fishlake Unit:
    - Bar J Ranch; 3 private, 3 public permits.



# Southern Region Summary

## ● OPTION ONE -

- Rio Grande: Increase of 361 (857 to 1236) total permits (41%).
- Merriam's: Increase of 102 (464 to 566) total permits (22%).

## ● OPTION TWO –

- Rio Grande: Increase of 1589 total permits (182%).
- Merriam's: Increase of 666 total permits (144%).





# Southeastern Region Recommendations

- Hunt Units – South Book Cliffs and Henry Mountain / Caineville, are only a one hunt season (May 3-31, 2008) for all Options.
- All other Units – existing Unit boundaries apply for Hunt C.

# Southeastern Region (CWMUs)

- Total of 3 CWMUs encompassing 10 permits (50:50 public:private split).
  - Central Mountains, East Manti Unit:
    - Hiawatha; 1 private, 1 public permit
    - Castle Valley Outdoors; **(New Unit)** 1 private, 1 public permit
  - La Sal Unit:
    - Redd Ranches; 3 private, 3 public permits



# **Southeastern Region Summary**

## **● OPTION ONE -**

- Rio Grande: Increase of 361 (875 to 1236) total permits (41%).**
- Merriam's: No change (268) in total permits.**

## **● OPTION TWO –**

- Rio Grande: Increase of 84 total permits (64%)**
- Merriam's: Increase of 238 total permits (89%)**



# Northeastern Region Summary

- **OPTION ONE -**

- Increase of 54 (216 to 270) total permits (25%) in region over last year.

- **OPTION TWO –**

- Increase of 230 total permits (106%).
- Hunt C – existing Unit boundaries apply.

# Central Region Recommendations

- Option Two - Hunt C will combine all the units in the region to Region Wide hunt. (Central Region – Region Wide)
- Hunt C boundary description will be the same as the Central Region General Deer Hunt Boundary.



# Central Region (CWMUs)

- -Total of 1 CWMU encompassing 6 permits, up 2 from last year(50:50 public:private split).
  - Central Region (West) Unit:
    - Heaston East; 3 private, 3 public permits



# Central Region Summary

- **OPTION ONE -**

- Increase of 223 (693 to 916) total permits (32%) in region over last year.

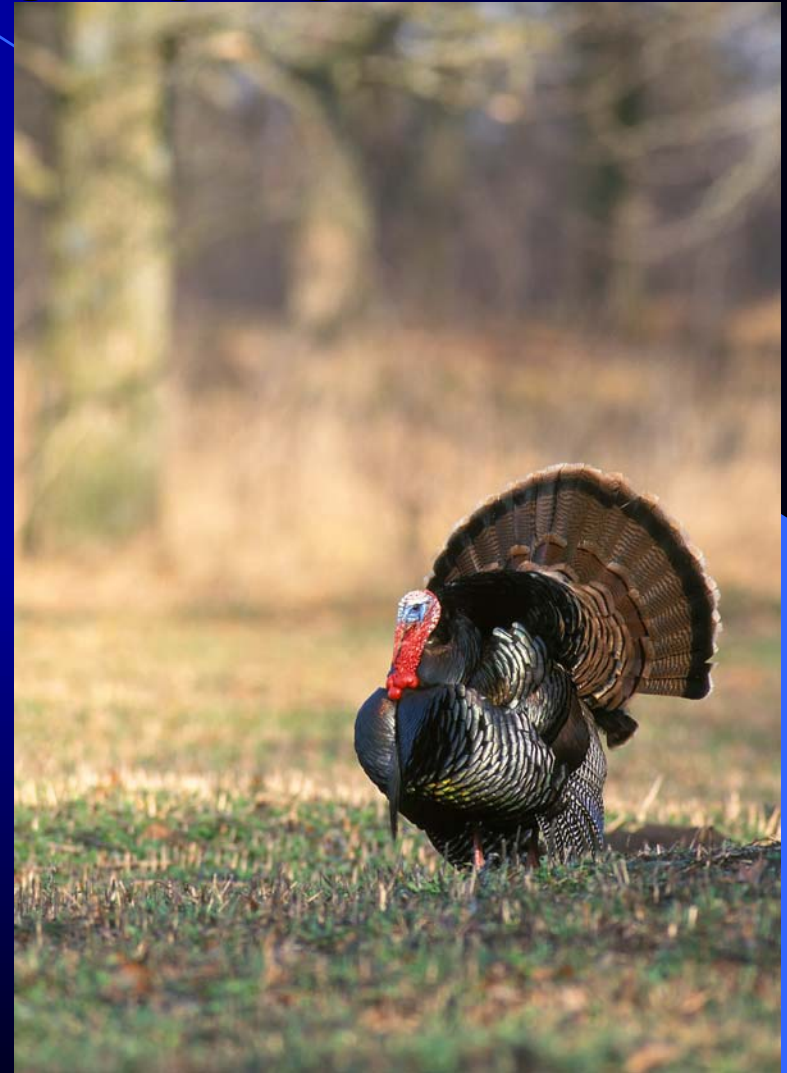
- **OPTION TWO –**

- Increase of 923 total permits (133%).



# Northern Region Recommendations

- Option Two - Hunt C will combine all the units in the region to Region Wide hunt. (Northern Region – Region Wide)
- Hunt C boundary will be the same as Northern Region General Deer Hunt Boundary.



# Northern Region (CWMUs)

- Total of 2 CWMUs encompassing 10 permits (50:50 public:private split).
  - East Canyon Unit:
    - Jacob's Creek - discontinued
  - Morgan South-Rich Unit:
    - Dry Bread – discontinued.
    - Folley Ridge; 5 private, 5 public permits
  - Ogden Unit:
    - Broadmouth (New Unit); 1 private, 1 public.



# Northern Region Summary

- **OPTION ONE -**
  - Increase of 172 (453 to 625) total permits (38%) in region over last year.
- **OPTION TWO –**
  - Increase of 785 total permits (173%)



# Questions??

